

## All We Need

Keep your tinted limos winding toward gated mansions,  
Where lie stacked the golden apples  
Alongside every other shiny solid:

All we really need is the right question followed by a test,  
with just one bulb to hold against the map of an idea,  
All we need is what we're holding plus everything we're worth,  
precisely this much muscle blooded with breath

A song playing in the back of our mind  
while clutching a photograph developing in the darkroom of heart

All we need is best friendship anywhere in the world  
and for love to exist, whether roaring lionlike from the hillside  
or bent in a bruised alley gasping on our last hope

All we need is a chip and one more throw,  
A shot of not-quite-the-worst chased with a best guess

A handful of the past under an undropped tear,  
the miracle of Now illuminating the secret of Next

All we need is to newly borrow the anciently unearthed,  
to have been born yet not died

Any appendage tracing a line across a square inch of skin  
under weather beneath some kind of sky with a near or far star

For a second to give us a hand,  
everyone who's ever lived including each death so far

All we need is all we are not in body but being,  
a smoldering core at the center  
of an invisibility filling our spaces

The riddle of pain in the puzzle of pleasure,  
the arrow of age set upon the bow of history

All we need is to know the flavor of taste during the banquet of hunger  
attended by each face we can't place and every way we feel

To be a wide eye for starlight

To be a dream in the consciousness of the universe

All we need is a beginning with a start,  
a little dance to our step and for the Earth to give us one more turn

## Dare

I dare you to be yourself, to let your music dance,  
to free the bird only you can, and ensure it carries a true song  
even when the rest of the western world has tuned wrong,  
I dare you to dare yourself, to find out if and when horizons truly end,  
to find out if all the cliffs crumbling in your consciousness  
will continue to keep you from testing the air,  
I dare you to enter the palace of your own existence  
and surrender to the splendor  
and glory to the power  
of resuming your throne,  
to steadily settle into your ocean  
amidst the most violent clashes of wave,  
I dare you to know yourself, neither reflection nor echo,  
not the way you should or would like to be  
but to expose that nitty-grittiest heart-feltiest  
most unashamedly naked speck  
to yourself, the universe, and at least  
one other person  
before it's too late

## Let It All the Way In

Let everything way in  
Let the way in  
Let it all the way in  
Let the fresh grass cut you  
Let the cars roll all over you  
Let the sky rises elevate your mind  
Let the bag lady's overstretched sighs  
    tear at the backs of your eyes  
Let the season of everyone's weather  
    align you which way the wind is blowing  
Let anger be cold breeze  
Let lies be testimony  
Let truth be self-evident  
Let One-Way arrows point into you  
    Streetlights shine inside you  
Let your frailty and fear be overflowed  
    by the reservoir within  
    Without you  
Let the trees draw the sun  
    down to the roots of you  
Let the white lines be themselves  
Let the danger knight one shoulder,  
    beauty take flight from the other  
Let distances expand you  
Let every moment of potential romance  
    be every moment  
Let a harsh word incinerate  
    and one kindness blast away the ashes  
Let every decision bear its full weight upon you  
Let your mistakes sparkle  
Let your shame be hugged  
Let your deepest wish merge  
    with where you are  
Let nothing stand in the way of everything  
Let everything in  
Let it way in  
Let the way in  
Let it all the way in  
    and you will know  
    the inside of this poem

## The Tower

All the virgin sacrifice behind  
a clean slice atop the white

Combing miles of smoldering styles  
to find a green tendril in the ashpile

Wrestling impulse and gravity  
to muster each wild hair

Kindling wishes upon flickering conditions  
until every light exhales night but one

Comparing constellations  
for any tangent on the map:

Dizzying U-turns and one-way blues  
down wet plaster avenues

Sightless swirling experiments  
concocting vials of blinding ideals

Cradling truth in beauty's blanket  
until ready to stand naked;

Then, daring air reserved  
only for the rare

Facing the mute chorus  
for the unspoken crime of a voice

Deciphering the right wrongs  
of every crossed signal and upturned palm

Measuring every arrow at least  
an infinite inch shy of the sun

Staring into mirrors until we are pieces then  
cleansing our eyes in rivers of blood and time

Ripening words and pruning lies while  
spiraling inside toward higher lines

Watering Must, growing Next,  
fumbling down the tunnel's call:

Each hill undertaken long after  
the last cherry hour forsaken

Every deal made and broken just  
for laying another step onto this stair  
the last and first  
the only  
the one  
that is all and always  
you

## You are one

You screamed red while no one heard,  
your yellow rays none could absorb.

No one knew such oceans of blue,  
and blamed the sky for their lack of depth.

How could anyone, for whom sunlight  
was too much, feel the flame not enough,

Who barely hears the thunder  
Suffer an ear for too much music?

Occupation too pointilist:  
if a minister, to be Christ,  
if artist, to repaint sight—

Your knifing palette stirred the vacuum,  
feeding the wind you found yourself in—

Overzealous embraces wrung forth self-portraits,  
figures from a distance, subjective your subject;

Squinting into scintillating horizons,  
uncovering the core with layers,  
oozing oil, each brushstroke signature...

Fellowship of the forsaken,  
recognition of a lone brother;

Strained by such wide swings,  
only the outdoors could hold:

Tipping your hat, wind danced,  
solitudes of cypress sang,  
sunflowers throbbed,  
as the doctor checked your pulse.

You were too heavy for the balcony,  
too aspiring for the mine.

How could you fully stretch  
amid love so comfortable?

Even the stars whirling close  
weren't the same, now you are one,  
and all who turned their backs, night.